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Halpern Meets With CIA Head

FROM THE PRESS
WASHINGTON BUREAU

Rep. Seymour Halpern, who fired a salvo at the Central Intelligence Agency last week for infiltrating domestic groups, met yesterday with retiring CIA director William Raborn and emerged saying the conference was "very productive."

The Jamaica Republican said he was asked by the CIA not to reveal details of the breakfast meeting, but added, "Only good can come out of it (the meeting)."

Asked if he had sought assurances that the CIA would not try to infiltrate domestic groups or news media, Halpern replied:

"They (the CIA) weren't assuring me any more than I was demanding assurances."

Halpern said the meeting in Raborn's office was "cordial."

Last week, in a speech before the House, Halpern admonished the agency for penetrating a U.S.-based emigre group, the Legion of Estonian Liberation, and for using a leading foreign affairs publication to promote official U.S. policy in Viet Nam.

After the meeting yesterday, Halpern said, "The overall effectiveness of the agency, in my opinion, is weakened when, because of undertaking certain questionable activities, it subjects itself increasingly to public exposure."

He said the agency's secrecy must be maintained at all costs and not jeopardized.

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